IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method for synchronously transferring an amount of local data from a local data storage medium to a remote data storage medium via a communications link having an available bandwidth, the local data storage medium associated with a local computer system having a local processor sequentially responsive to a plurality of local computer programs, the remote data storage medium associated with a remote computer system non-redundant of the local computer system and having a remote processor, the method comprising:

evaluating local user conditions associated with transfer of the local data;

based on the currently available bandwidth and the amount of local data, approximating a transfer time for the local data;

determining a status of the local processor, wherein the determining step includes determining if the local processor has reduced activity or is idle;

based on the approximated transfer time, **the local user conditions, and the status of the local processor, selecting a time of day at which** to transmit the local data to the remote data storage medium; and

automatically arranging transfer of the local data to the remote data storage medium via the communications link at the selected time of day.

2. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program which, when loaded into a processor, implements ~~the method of claim 1~~ a method for synchronously transferring an amount of local data from a local data storage medium to a remote data storage medium via a communications link having an available bandwidth, the local data storage medium associated with a local computer system having a local processor sequentially responsive to a plurality of local computer programs, the remote data storage medium associated with a remote computer system non-redundant of the local computer system and having a remote processor, the method comprising:

evaluating local user conditions associated with transfer of the local data;

based on the currently available bandwidth and the amount of local data, approximating a transfer time for the local data;

determining a status of the local processor, wherein the determining step includes determining if the local processor has reduced activity or is idle;

based on the approximated transfer time, the local user conditions, and the status of the local processor, selecting a time of day at which to transmit the local data to the remote data storage medium; and

automatically arranging transfer of the local data to the remote data storage medium via the communications link at the selected time of day.

3. (Original) The computer-readable medium according to claim 2, wherein the computer program comprises one of the plurality of local computer programs, and the processor comprises the local processor.

4. (Original) The computer-readable medium according to claim 2, wherein the processor comprises the remote processor.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
automatically transmitting the local data to the remote data storage medium at the selected time.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
automatically arranging for interruption of transfer of the local data based on the status of the local processor.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, further comprising:
automatically interrupting transfer of the local data based on the status of the local processor.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein the status of the local processor is inferred from one of: a status of a display device; a status of a memory; a configured processor utilization; and a time since a last interactive use of the local computer system.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the status of the display device comprises activation of a screen-saver.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 6, further comprising: after automatically arranging for interruption of transfer of the local data, automatically arranging for resumption of transfer of the local data based on the status of the local processor.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, further comprising: automatically resuming transfer of the local data based on the status of the local processor.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the local user conditions comprise one of: a location of the local data; a preferred transfer time; a file extension associated with the local data; and a status of the communication link.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the remote processor and the local processor are under independent control.

14. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for synchronously transferring an amount of local data from a local data storage medium to a remote data storage medium via a communications link having an available bandwidth, the local data storage medium associated with a local computer system having a local processor sequentially responsive to a plurality of local computer programs, the remote data storage medium associated with a remote computer system non-redundant of the local computer system and having a remote processor, the apparatus comprising:

a computer-readable storage medium; and

a processor responsive to the computer-readable storage medium and to a computer program, the computer program, when loaded into the processor, operative to perform a method comprising:

evaluating local user conditions associated with transfer of the local data;

based on the currently available bandwidth and the amount of local data, approximating a transfer time for the local data;

determining a status of the local processor, wherein the determining step includes determining if the local processor has reduced activity or is idle;

based on the approximated transfer time, the local user conditions, and the status of the local processor, selecting a time of day to transmit the local data to the remote data storage medium; and

automatically arranging transfer of the local data to the remote data storage medium via the communications link at the selected time of day.

15-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the status is determined by direct monitoring of the local processor.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the status is inferred by monitoring a status of other programs associated with the local computer system.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the local user conditions comprise file extensions of the local data.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein local data having a first file extension is transferred immediately and wherein local data having a second file extension is transferred at a later time of day.